

April 6, 2006

Dear Sirs:

I am writing to oppose the Bank of Wal-Mart. I fear that a Bank of Walmart will destroy the local financial institutions in my town in the same way that Wal-Mart destroys local businesses when they come into a community. In addition, a Bank of Wal-Mart has no incentive to loan money to local businesses with which they are competing. I live in Bellingham, WA. One of the things that makes this a wonderful place is that we have many locally-owned businesses. Why would a Wal-Mart bank lend money to these businesses when Wal-Mart the Megastore tries to drive these businesses into the ground? A community with a strong economic base has a multitude of flourishing, competing businesses, not one Wal-Mart that killed all the other businesses. Allowing the world's largest corporation to own a bank will create a dangerous concentration of commercial and financial power and is a threat to our democracy. Thanks for your attention to this matter.

Elizabeth Pernotto